

AUGUST 2006

THE LATEST NEWS FROM TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14, 2006  
Take Pride in America  
National Awards  
<http://www.takepride.gov/awards/national.cfm>

September 16, 2006  
International Coastal  
Cleanup Day  
<http://www.coastalcleanup.org/welcome.cfm>

September 30, 2006  
National Public Lands Day  
<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

October 18, 2006  
World Water Monitoring Day  
<http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>

## Greetings from the Executive Director

This past month was exciting, as we gathered a panel of judges to review and select our annual national award winners. I'm delighted to announce we will have 28 recipients of the Take Pride in America National Award. Receiving nominations from across the country helps us learn in greater detail the extent to which Americans donate their time and energy to enhancing our public lands. From individuals and groups to corporations and partners, we received nominations from 32 different states for the national awards. The discussion among our panel of judges was extensive, but finally, they were able to select these exemplary projects, events and individuals that were representative of the Take Pride spirit.

I am thrilled to announce a new partnership with the Toyota Motor Corporation. Continuing their efforts to give back to communities and encourage responsible stewardship of our natural resources, Take Pride is partnering with Toyota to reach new volunteers and existing volunteer with our message of active volunteer involvement on public lands. Our first project together is a brochure to be distributed in partnership with National Public Lands Day (NPLD), which will encourage NPLD volunteers to become involved in a continued effort of volunteerism on public lands. We appreciate the efforts of Toyota and our other partners, as they continue to support the mission of Take Pride in unique ways.

Also this month, the Take Pride office worked through a transition as Justin Hall moved into a new position within the Department. Justin has been instrumental in growing the Take Pride program over the last three years. Many of you have worked with him on events, and though Justin will be greatly missed, we are excited for this opportunity for him to work with Secretary Kempthorne.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Cagle*



*This brochure which was sponsored in partnership with Toyota, will be distributed to volunteers at National Public Lands Day sites.*

## Register NOW for National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is just two months away, and the time to register your public lands site is NOW! All public lands, including local, state and Federal lands, are eligible to participate in the largest day of volunteering on public lands across America. Take Pride is proud to partner with NPLD for the third consecutive year and offer all sites Take Pride event materials including banners, brochures



and bumper stickers.

Additionally, all registered sites will receive the NPLD 2006 commemorative poster, as well as promotional posters and brochures to promote their local event. Visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org) to register with NPLD and visit [www.TakePride.gov](http://www.TakePride.gov) to register your site to receive Take Pride event materials.

# AWARD SPOTLIGHT

## Take Pride in America Announces 2006 National Award Winners

Take Pride is proud to announce the winners of the 2006 Take Pride in America National Awards. These individuals, groups, corporations and partnerships will be honored at an awards ceremony on Thursday, September 14 at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC.

This year's winners were selected for their outstanding volunteer efforts on Federal, state and local public lands. The panel of judges selected the winners from nomination

representing individuals, groups and projects in 32 different states. The judges, representatives of government agencies within the Department of the Interior, scored the applications based upon the scope of their work, the measurable impact of their results, their collaborative partnerships and their demonstration of the mission of Take Pride.

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for this annual award and congratulations to this year's winners.

### 2006 Take Pride National Award Winners by Category

#### Outstanding Take Pride Supporter

**Ford Motor Company**—A global company which provides funding and outreach support for wild horses and burros through the Save the Mustangs Fund, as well as raises public awareness about the need to protect these animals.



*Ford Motor Company is recognized this year for their efforts to help protect an icon of the American West, the wild horses and burros.*

#### Corporation

**Salt River Tubing & Recreation** in Mesa, AZ—A recreational tubing company which challenged their customers to fill a garbage bag with trash while tubing the Salt River to receive discount coupons for future tubing trips.

#### Individual

**Deborah Goff** of Westminster, MD—Arranged for elementary students to plant a vegetable garden for residents of a senior center using a seed grant and donated garden tools.

**Lauren Giebler** of Aurora, CO—Worked at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge to improve environmental education programs through increased public outreach and the introduction of new curriculum.

**James Keith** of Brusly, LA—Dedicated time to three separate national wildlife refuges by maintaining trails, monitoring species and informing the public of recreational and educational opportunities on the refuges.

**Karen Smith** of Jacksonville, FL—Manages and sponsors a service-learning program for junior high students who perform maintenance and water-quality monitoring projects.

**Richard Stevens** of Kealahou, HI—Organized and

implemented a reforestation project for a veteran's cemetery by securing grants and using volunteers to perform the work.

#### Youth/ Youth Group

**PAWS (Promoting Awesome Watershed Stewardship)** in Dunnellon, FL—A group of middle school students who perform field work, monitor water quality and present public awareness seminars throughout their community.

#### Non-Profit Organization

**Citizens for a Litter-Free Choctaw County** in Soper, OK—A collaborative effort of civic groups and citizens who, through a public awareness and leadership campaign, successfully encouraged others to clean litter and debris from their community.

**Student Conservation Association - Invasive Species Project**—A nationwide group of high school and college students who developed an Invasive Species Project to rid public lands of harmful species that threaten the natural vegetation.

**Black Canyon Trail Coalition** in Black Canyon City, AZ—A group of volunteers who advocate for and help create a trail for hiking, biking and horse riding along the Black Canyon corridor.

**Ardmore Beautification Council** in Ardmore, OK—Created a community challenge which engaged elected officials and citizens in cleaning up litter and performing beautification projects throughout the city.

*(National Award Winners continued on page 3)*



*The ribbon cutting of the garden at the Residences at the Hampstead School was the result of efforts by Deborah Goff, a winner in the individual category.*

## 2006 National Award Winners Continued

(National Award Winners continued from page 2)

### Local Government Event/ Program

**Lima-Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership** in Lima, OH—A partnership of the city, schools and neighborhood residents who come together to sponsor citywide cleanup activities to unite the community.

### Federal Volunteer Event/ Program

**Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program** in Boulder City, NV—Serves as a clearinghouse for citizens to research, identify and participate in volunteer opportunities in Las Vegas, Nevada and surrounding communities.



*Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program is a second-time winner in the Federal Volunteer Program category. In one of their projects, a group of volunteers clears debris and invasive species in southern Nevada.*

### School Program

**Discovery School** in Spokane, WA—Elementary students who helped restore a riparian habitat through planting native vegetation and monitoring bird species and trails.

**Palm Bay Elementary School** in Palm Bay, FL—Through education and outreach, a group of elementary students encouraged their community to conserve energy and recycle.

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Middle School** in Houston, TX—Middle school students who perform trail maintenance, invasive species removal and work to preserve natural habitat of a bird sanctuary on campus.

**Pi Beta Phi Elementary School** in Gatlinburg, TN—A group of middle schoolers who installed fencing at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, rehabilitated a trail and cleaned up riverbanks within the Park.

### Faith Based Group

**Marys & Marthas** in Clarion, IA—A women's group who gave their city '60 Days to Make A Difference.' More than half the population participated in beautification events, community outreach and litter cleanups.

### Public/ Private Partnership

**Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office and Boy Scouts of America, Yuma Ocotillo District** in Yuma, AZ—The Scout troop worked in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation to lead other community groups in organizing and participating in large-scale river and wetland cleanups.

**Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers** in Roseburg, OR—A volunteer group which works with the Bureau of Land Management to provide seamless land management across public and privately held land in the community.

**Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program** in Austin, TX—A partnership program with Keep America Beautiful which executed cleanups at 29 sites along the Texas coast.

### Federal Land Managers

**K. Dewayne Shouse**, Park Ranger, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Buckhorn, KY—Designs innovative ways to recruit volunteers, leads a hiking trail construction project for volunteers and structured a volunteer program to maintain a level of public service at the park.

**Ruby Seitz**, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service in McKenzie Bridge, OR—Recruits volunteers from Central America to participate in an exchange of management programs and experiences with local volunteers and community leaders.

**Roy Lowe**, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Newport, OR—Oversees six refuges, four Friends groups and manages partnerships to strategically acquire land for restoration projects.

**Tony Herrell**, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management in Carlsbad, NM—Uses creative means to involve volunteers in collaborative reclamation efforts and habitat restoration. Also, partners with groups to help implement best management practices for the oil and gas industry.

**Harold (Kip) Hagen**, Superintendent, National Park Service in Scranton, PA—Supports the NPS Volunteer-In-Parks program by providing visiting railroad enthusiasts a means to contribute their time and expertise to the Park.

**Loredana (Donna) Potter**, Mid-Pacific Regional Office, Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento, CA—Consistently engages volunteers and community groups in stewardship events by setting an example and providing recognition and publicity for their accomplishments.



*Donna Potter, winner in the Federal Land Manager category, with Acting Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, Bill Rinne at the Folsom Dam 50th Anniversary.*



# Historical Event Celebrates Bicentennial of Lewis & Clark Expedition

Just outside Billings, Montana at Pompey's Pillar National Monument, a four-day event marked the 200th anniversary of Merriweather Lewis and William Clark's western expedition. 'Clark on the Yellowstone,' from July 22 through July 25, celebrated the historical and cultural significance of their roundtrip journey from St. Louis, Missouri to the Pacific Ocean.

Nearly 100 degree heat couldn't prevent over 20,000 people from across the country to commemorate this milestone at Pompey's Pillar. Events included historical reenactments of life on the river, demonstrations of the food, medicine and housing at the time, Native American encampments and interpretations of the journals that Lewis and Clark maintained throughout their 28-month expedition. Signature events which highlighted the celebration include the dedication of the new interpretive/ visitor center, a Native American Symposium, a Parade of Honor by the Crow Nation and the reenactment of William Clark signing his name on Pompey's Pillar, leaving the only remaining physical evidence of the journey of Lewis and Clark.

Participants in Clark on the Yellowstone included Bud Clark, great, great, great grandson of William Clark, who spoke about the legacy of the expedition and dancers of neighboring Indian tribes who demonstrated customary dances and native dress. Additionally, authors, interpreters and historians, as well as artisans and representatives of

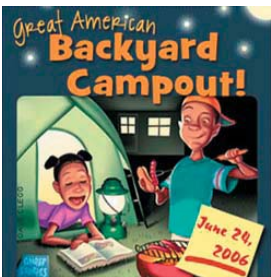
Federal bureaus and agencies displayed interactive exhibits in the tents surrounding the stages. Over 300 individuals from civic groups in the area volunteered to help host the event and assisted with everything from parking and distributing water to running three performance stages and manning the visitor's center.

The Clark on the Yellowstone event was sponsored by the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and Yellowstone County, Montana, among numerous other sponsors. Special thanks to Dick Fichtler and Ann Boucher, both with the Bureau of Land Management-Montana office, for their efforts in coordinating this large-scale event. Other upcoming Lewis & Clark Signature Events include the Reunion at the Home of Sakakawea in New Town, North Dakota on August 17 and the Return to St. Louis: Currents of Change in St. Louis, Missouri on September 20. For more information, visit [www.lewisandclark200.org](http://www.lewisandclark200.org).

*A member of the Crow Nation, dressed in customary dress rides in the Parade of the Crow Nation before the closing ceremonies.*



## Great Backyard Campout Brings Great Experience for Families



On Saturday, June 24, over 40,000 campers participated in the 2nd Annual Great American Backyard Campout, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, a Take Pride Steward Supporter. Campers were scattered across all fifty states as well as Guam, the US Virgin Islands and Canada.

The Great American Backyard Campout encourages everyone to get out and camp, to renew their connection with nature or experience it for the first time. It also provides an opportunity for parents to reconnect with their kids following an endless schedule of programmed activities during the school year. Kids and adults alike turned off their TVs, iPods, Playstations, and computers to experience a night outside.

Campers registered their campsites online at the National Wildlife Federation website where they also found packing lists, recipes, nocturnal wildlife guides, nighttime photography tips, a star-gazing guide, wildlife activities, and an e-mail invitation to invite friends. A photo gallery with camper stories can also be found at the website ([www.nwf.org/campout](http://www.nwf.org/campout)). Mark your calendar for next year--June 23!

## Help is on the Way to Heal the Bay in Southern California

On Saturday, July 15, instead of sunbathing and swimming, 150 beachgoers elected to spend their morning cleaning up the beach in Southern California. Volunteers collected 30 bags of trash on Dockweiler Beach near Los Angeles International Airport when they participated in the monthly 'Nothin' But Sand Beach Cleanup,' sponsored by Los Angeles-based Heal the Bay, an organization devoted to keeping coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Held on the third Saturday of each month on beaches throughout Los Angeles County, the cleanup raises awareness of the problems faced by our waterways and oceans, while reducing the impact of trash on our beaches.

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteer beach cleanup captains, the cleanups continue to be a huge success. With their incredible ideas, superb management and their desire to make our beaches a better place for all, they make cleaning the beach a pleasure, not a chore. And, with support from local businesses and other organizations, the program will continue to get even better.

For more information, visit <http://www.healthebay.org/volunteer/htbcleanup>.

# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## Take Pride, Jean-Michel Cousteau

### Commend Volunteers for Clean Beaches

A beach cleanup and recognition ceremony wrapped up National Clean Beaches Week in Santa Monica, California on Wednesday, July 5. The Clean Beaches Council (a Take Pride Charter Partner) and Take Pride in America thanked the participants for their hard work, while Jean-Michel Cousteau of the Ocean Futures Society spoke to the crowd about the role of oceans in our environment and the importance of preventing them from further deterioration by litter and other threats.

Brain Waidmann, Chief of Staff to Secretary Kempthorne, spoke to the audience about the role the Department of the Interior plays in protecting our oceans.

Together, Brian Waidmann and Walter McLeod, director of the Clean Beaches Council, presented a Take Pride Appreciation Certificate to Mayor Robert Holbrook for Santa Monica's continued efforts to keep the beaches of their city litter-free. The Clean Beaches Council hosted the beach cleanup following the Fourth of July holiday to pick up the litter and debris remaining after Californians celebrated the holiday.



*Brian Waidmann, Walter McLeod, Mayor Holbrook and volunteers gather to celebrate clean beaches in Santa Monica after the holiday.*

## Take Pride Staff Update

Take Pride offers many thanks and best wishes to **Justin Hall**, Assistant Director of Events for Take Pride, in his move to a new position in the Secretary's Office of Scheduling and Advance. Justin worked with the Take Pride team for three years, initially in Denver, Colorado, and later in Washington, DC and helped grow the program through partner development, website redesign, targeted Take Pride events and the Save the Mustangs Fund. His hard work and dedication to Take Pride will be missed around the office, but we wish him well in his new adventure.

## Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at [TakePride@ios.doi.gov](mailto:TakePride@ios.doi.gov) for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

### Volunteerism is on the Rise Across America ?

Volunteerism has increased in America over the past three years, according to a recent Federal study released by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Findings include that 65.4 million people donated their time in 2005, which is 5.6 million more than in 2002. The increase in volunteerism signals that roughly 29 percent of adults in America are volunteering. The study also showed that Americans 35 to 44 years of age are more likely to volunteer.

Together, volunteers last year contributed 8.2 billion hours of volunteer work.

Volunteers are making a difference for the Federal government and the lands that the Department of the Interior manages. From October 2004 through September 2005, volunteers contributed more than 23.5 million hours of service to public lands through eight federal agencies. The value of these hours totals nearly \$424 million toward the bottom line budget of the agencies. Together, these volunteers maintained, enhanced and cared for America's cultural and natural resources.

## Welcome New Congressioinal Partners!

U.S. Senator John E. Sununu  
New Hampshire

Congressman Roscoe G. Bartlett  
District 6 of Maryland

Congressman John Boozman  
District 3 of Arkansas

Congressman William 'Lacy' Clay  
District 1 of Missouri

Congressman Harold Ford  
District 9 of Tennessee

Congressman Luis G. Fortuno  
Representing Puerto Rico

Congressman Scott Garrett  
District 5 of New Jersey

Congressman Frank R. Wolf  
District 10 of Virginia